

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 IGA-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01

OMB-01 /058 W

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O P 071217Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9255

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 2404

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS CB

SUBJECT: THIRTY-EIGHT DAY OF KC DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE

REF:PHNOM PENH 2321

1. SUMMARY. HEAVY ATTACKS SOUTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH HAVE PUT THE THIRD DIVISION INTO HARD DEFENSIVE FIGHTING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE OFFENSIVE. ALONG THE MEKONG, FANK CHOKE-POINT POSITIONS AT BOTH DEI DOS AND PEAMREANG TOOK ATTACKS BY FIRE WITH PEAM REANG REPORTING NEARBY LARGE GROUPS OF ENEMY TROOPS. SEVEN ROCKETS HIT PHNOM PENH OR POCHENTONG AIRPORT IN THE EARLY MORNING FEBRUARY 7 WITH NO DAMAGE OR CASUALTIES REPORTED. CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATES OF ENEMY CASUALTIES FOR THE PRIMARY AREA OF THE OFFENSIVE JAN 1-31 SHOW 4,600 KILLED AND A PROJECTED 11,000 WOUNDED. FANK LOST 2,400 KILLED AND 6,900 WOUNDED TO MAKE A COMBINED TOTAL OF 25,000 KHMER OF BOTH SIDES KILLED OR WOUNDED IN THE FIRST MONTH OF THE DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE.
END SUMMARY.

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2. ACTION HEATED UP IN THE CAPITAL'S SOUTHWEST SECTOR AS

THE 3RD DIVISION REPORTED HEAVY FIGHTING. PRELIMINARY INFORMATION INDICATES PROBABLE HEAVY ENEMY CASUALTIES. IN THE NORTHWEST THE 7TH DIVISION AND REINFORCEING UNITS LINKED UP WITH ONE POSITION AND ARE MOVING TO RESTORE THE ONE KILOMETER CUT BETWEEN THE DIVISION COMMAND POST AT TRAPEANG PREY AND A BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AT PHNOM BASET. SEVEN ROCKETS FELL IN PHNOMPENH OR POCHENTONG AIRPORT IN THE EARLY MORNING OF FEB. 7 WITH NO CASUALTIES OR DAMAGE.

3. FANK POSITIONS GUARDING MEKONG RIVER CHOKE POINTS AT DEI DOS AND PEAM REANG ISLAND CAME UNDER HEAVY ATTACKS BY FIRE. PEAM REANG DEFENDERS ALSO REPORTED A LARGE CONCENTRATION OF KC TROOPS NEARBY. THE ABFS MAY BE PRELIMINARY TO CONCERTED KC EFFORTS TO TAKE THESE POSITIONS AND FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE ENEMY POSITION ON THE LOWER MEKONG.

4. BOTH SIDES TOOK A COMBINED TOTAL OF 25,000 CASUALTIES FROM JAN 1-31. THE KC LOST AN ESTIMATED 4,600 KILLED IN THE PRIMARY AREAS OF THEIR ATTACKS. THEY LOST A PROJECTED 11,000 WOUNDED AS WELL. FANK REPORTS 2,400 DEAD AND MISSING AND 6,900 WOUNDED OF WHOM 3,400 WERE LIGHTLY WOUNDED AND SHOULD RETURN TO DUTY SHORTLY. NAVY LOSSES ARE HEAVY; 400 NAVAL INFANTRY TROOPS WERE KILLED OR MISSING AND ANOTHER 650 WERE WOUNDED. THE NAVY HAS LOST 3 PATROL BOATS, 2 ARMORED TROOPS CARRIERS, 4 LANDING CRAFT AND ONE 105MM HOWITZER-ARMED MONITOR. EIGHT OTHER VESSELS HAVE SERIOUS HULL DAMAGE AND INOPERABLE.

5. FANK COMMANDERS HAVE BEGUN TO FEEL THE AMMO PINCH. THE THIRD DIVISION COMMANDING GENERAL SAID HE IS NOT EMPLOYING FULL COUNTER BATTERY FIRE EVEN AGAINST KNOWN ENEMY POSITIONS. THE TOUGH 28TH BRIGADE COMMANDER SAID HE IS SUSPENDING OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS IN HIS ZONE NORTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH DUE TO AMMO RESTRICTIONS.

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Message Attributes

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